



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

23 May 2013

The 126th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 126th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1546, "An Act To Strengthen Maine's Hospitals, Increase Access to Health Care and Provide for a New Spirits Contract."

Democrat leadership has spent the past week forcing this bill through the legislative process, over the objections of Republicans and Democrats alike. This unadulterated partisanship tied two different issues together in a quest to force welfare expansion upon the Maine people. I have said all along this bill would receive a veto when it reached my desk, so this letter should be no surprise.

The sad part of this veto is the simple fact that all of us have agreed paying our bills is the fiscally responsible thing to do. Additionally, the bipartisan work of the committees has recognized my original plan is the best way to do it. That is why I have filed a Governor's Bill today reflecting the parts of LD 1546 we all agree on – paying the hospitals and ensuring the liquor business provides the best return for the state – without the forced expansion of MaineCare. The Legislature will have the opportunity to vote up-or-down to pay the hospitals – I trust you will do the right thing.

Lastly, as I have said all along, once we have our fiscal house in order, we will be in a position to release the authorized bonds. As a measure of good faith, I am hereby directing the State Treasurer to begin to prepare those bonds for my signature on an expedited basis. I will sign them as soon as this new Governor's Bill is enacted. I hope she will act quickly to ensure our economy can get back to work.

For these reasons, I return LD 1546 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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